



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 24

11.3.25

Designated Child Protection Teachers: Mr McKane & Mrs Wilson



THE ABSEIL IS BACK!

SUNDAY 18 MAY

A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY (APART FROM LAST YEAR!)
TO EXPERIENCE AN ABSEIL AND RAISE MONEY FOR THE PTA!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART, PLEASE EMAIL parneill709@c2kni.net.
We need one willing volunteer from each class!

THIS
WEEK'S
STAR
PUPILS

P1



P2



P3



P4



P5



P6



P7



CONGRATULATIONS



Josh and Kiera both won medals for gymnastics at their club Salto.



Well done to Joe, who was 'Player of the Week' at his football club.



Well done to Aoife and Ella on winning medals at the NICMAC dance competition.



Congratulations to Olin, Sarah and Raphael on becoming our latest AR Millionaires.



Attendance

We are delighted to share this news item from last week's News Letter. We are listed as one of the top 19 schools in Northern Ireland for attendance. We are in 8th place, and the first city school on the list. The article outlines some of the reasons why full attendance is important, and we want to encourage families to ensure children attend school every day. At Stranmillis PS, we want our pupils to take pride in their attendance and understand that it matters. Thank you for your support and partnership in bringing your children to school every day!

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/education/the-19-northern-ireland-primary-schools-with-the-highest-attendance-rates-5017415?page=2>

The 19 Northern Ireland primary schools with the highest attendance rates – and why it matters



By Amber Allott

Published 4th Mar 2025, 17:25 GMT



Many of these schools boast close to no unauthorised absences last year 🙌

While some of what children learn in primary school might seem elementary, this important time helps build the key academic skills that will form the bedrock of the rest of their educational journey.

That is why it is so important they attend as often as possible. But over the 2021/22 and 2022/23 academic years, school attendance rates in Northern Ireland have fallen to their worst levels on record. [The BBC reports](#) that about 30% of pupils across each of the two school years had "chronic" or "severe chronic" absence rates – significantly higher than in England or Wales.

We've taken a look at the latest attendance figures [from the Department of Education](#) published in January, which cover state-funded schools in the most recently-ended 2023/24 school year. After [earlier looking into the country's top secondary schools](#), we've now used this data to work out which state primary schools in Northern Ireland had the highest attendance rates over the last academic year.

Many smaller rural or village primary schools excelled. While some larger town and city schools also made the list, it is worth noting that it can sometimes be trickier for them to keep attendance rates high, due to higher numbers of pupils overall.

The data showed attendance rates as low as 71.1% at some primary schools in the last school year, meaning the absence rate was a whopping 28.9%. But children can miss school for many reasons, and alarmingly, the data also showed schools with unauthorised absence rates as high as 16.3%. NI Direct – [the official government website for Northern Ireland citizens](#) – says that going to school regularly is important for a child's future, with the benefits of regular school attendance including better exam performance – and eventually, job prospects. It also helps young people develop friendships, social skills, team values, life skills, and cultural awareness. Parents are legally responsible for making sure their children go to school, and if they don't, they could face fines or prosecution.

Article continued on the next page



8. Stranmillis Primary School, Belfast

The first city school on the list, this one is in Stranmillis, south Belfast. In the 2023/24 school year, it too had an attendance rate of 97%. | Google

GIRLS' FOOTBALL REPORT



The Girls' Football Team had a busy schedule recently, competing in the BPSFA Indoor Finals and the second round of the Liz Bryson Cup. In the BPSFA Indoor Final, the girls showed great determination and managed to finish in a very respectful 5th place overall. A great effort from all those involved.

In the Liz Bryson Cup, the girls took part in a thrilling match that ended in a 4-2 victory against Nettlefield Primary School. The team displayed fantastic perseverance and hard work to come from behind to win. The team now progress into the Quarter Finals.

Squad: Nell, Ava, Lola, Emma, Ella, Emma, Eve, Emily, Victoria and Clara.

P7 CUP SUCCESS



Last Thursday marked an historic moment for our school as Stranmillis were crowned the BPSFA 9-side champions, thanks to a very convincing win over Holy Cross Boys. The beginning of this hotly contested match certainly lived up to expectations, with both teams peppering each other's nets with shots. Despite the magnitude of the event and the weight of the task at hand, we quickly settled into our rhythm of attacking play, resulting in a scramble for the ball in the box and a goal for Adam. As the match progressed, the importance of our rock-solid defence of Luke, Ewan, Eesa, Paddy, Leo and Oliver became evident, allowing us to absorb pressure and distribute the ball to more advanced areas. In these danger-zones, Sonny, Fionn and David shone as they relentlessly tested the opposition's defence through a combination of direct dribbles and crosses to feed our attackers. Up top, the partnership of Adam and Leo proved to be too much for our opponents, with Leo slotting home the second goal of the day. In the second half, two more goals followed from Sonny to wrap up a fantastic 4-0 victory. Despite challenging conditions, our boys showed nerves of steel and top-level teamwork and we are so proud of them! Many thanks to our travelling supporters who provided the team with much needed encouragement on the day.

www.moreconsult.co.uk

GAELIC FOOTBALL KITS



Thank you to David Moreland, one of our parents, and the founder of More Consult, for sponsoring our new Gaelic Football kits. They look fantastic!

SCHOOL Choir

Last week, the choir sang beautifully at an event organised by Stranmillis College. The pupils were complimented on their singing, their behaviour and their professionalism! We are so proud of them!



Primary 7 CAREERS

Thank you to Adam Patterson, who came into school last week to tell the P7 pupils about a career in the TV industry.




Stranmillis Arcade for Grown-Ups – Tickets Now on Sale!

Get ready to hit START on an unforgettable night of retro gaming fun! Tickets are now available for the Stranmillis Arcade for Grown-Ups, taking place at **Belfast Boat Club on Friday, 28th March at 7:30 PM.**


Get your tickets now: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stranpta/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=95488>

Whether you're a Pac-Man champion, a Street Fighter pro, or just love the nostalgia of classic arcade games, this is your chance to relive the golden era of gaming! Expect competitions, amazing prizes, and a fantastic atmosphere—all while supporting Stranmillis Primary School PTA.

So gather your friends, unleash your inner gamer, and let's raise funds for a great cause while having a blast!

 **Friday, 28th March**

 **Belfast Boat Club – 7:30 PM**

 **Competitions & prizes on the night!**

Spread the word, get your tickets today, and let's make this a night to remember! 